



Arlington Poet Laureate Committee

Agenda

Date: September 1, 2015

Time: 8:00 AM

Location: 2nd Floor Conference Room, Town Hall Annex

Present: Liza Halley, John Burt, Jane Howard, Pamela Powell, Jeff Boudreau

1. Review Old Minutes and Approve: Minutes of June 16, June 22, and July 2 were approved.

2. Town Day including discussion about Banner: Miriam will be at the Jefferson Cutter House garden between 11:30 and 12:30. Jane has secured a portable microphone from vision 2020. Banner has been ordered and will be 3 ft by 2 ft, to be made by Arlington Banner and Flag, reinforced by 600 denier poly fabric. Waiting for Town Manager's approval to pay for it. Jane will pay for it and be reimbursed. Can be put up with grommets and bungee cords. We appreciate Jane's work on this very much. Applications for the poetry contest will be available, as will be her calendar. Is already having consulting sessions at Robbins Library twice a week. Has already applied for Arlington Cultural Council Grant for the prizes for the poetry contest. ACMI will tape her reading at Town Day. There will be a card table and chair for use for consulting with poets at Town Day in the garden. She will be in the Town Day brochure as well.

3. General Check in About Miriam's Progress: We are thrilled by everything she is doing, and are impressed by how many things she has already done and set in motion. Robbins Library forgot to put the Laureate's office hours in their most recent email blast. Jeff asked them to be sure to include it next time. They do have a poster in the elevator and at the place where she meets. She will visit the Fox Library in October, and will visit the Thompson too.

4. Our Status as A Committee & Our Future Role: Liza and Pamela spoke with Joe Curro about this. He reports that the Board of Selectmen is very happy with having us become dormant as a committee, and other work we might do for the Poet Laureate we would do as volunteers. We encourage Miriam to call on us as volunteers to help her out in any way she feels necessary. It feels that we can formally come back to life in the spring when it comes time to select or renew the Poet Laureate. We think the Selectmen may need to make provision to reimburse the Laureate or the committee for out of pocket expenses. The committee discussed the need for more clarification about support for the Poet Laureate. We think the town might wish to provide a space for a retreat for the

Laureate. (Joe Curro thought this might be a good idea, but felt it would be difficult to raise funds for this at this time.)

5. Set future meeting dates. Is this our final meeting? Or do we need to meet again to discuss how to support the poet laureate? We feel that there needs to be some body to support the poet laureate. We think the town needs to create such a body if that body is not to be us. The language that created our committee created us as a screening committee and does not give us any role in support or supervision of the poet laureate, but perhaps either the town should give us this role or appoint a committee to do so. This might take another process from the town. We should send these minutes to the Board of Selectmen, and invite them to meet with us at a time convenient for them.

6. New Business: Enter items from Jeff's "bucket list" document. To be considered at our next meeting.

7. Correspondence Received: attach Jeff's "next steps" document.

Meeting adjourned at 9:01 AM.

(send these to Marie Krepelka mkrepelka and to John Leone)